



## RESOLUTION

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URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER TO COORDINATE SERVICES AND CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

WHEREAS, approximately two million people with serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression are jailed or imprisoned across the nation each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately one third of these people have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, for the past 10 years the Honolulu Police Department ("HPD") has coordinated with City and State departments, private hospitals, and nonprofit organizations to increase the number of persons with mental illness diverted from the criminal justice system into mental health care programs; and

WHEREAS, while HPD's current policies have helped to divert thousands of mentally ill people from the criminal justice system, gaps continue to persist in the prevention of recidivism due to the difficulty in coordinating efforts among the many different entities involved, including State institutions, private hospitals and government agencies;

WHEREAS, according to the Institute for Human Services, the population served by the City's Housing First program, which includes many homeless individuals with mental illness, has averaged 7.65 interactions with police and 4.02 visits to the ER in the 6 months prior to entering the program; and

WHEREAS, the need for sustained assistance to the mentally ill, especially those persons who are unsheltered, cannot be fully addressed simply through diversions to private hospitals and a housing program, since those in need require a continuum of care over the long-term; and

WHEREAS, a mental health crisis center is a single location for mentally ill individuals diverted by emergency responders to receive immediate care and referrals for long-term care; and

WHEREAS, in King County, Washington, first responders have an option to call a Crisis Solutions Center when they encounter a nonviolent person who is suffering from a psychiatric crisis, with the primary goal of diverting individuals from jails and hospitals by providing more appropriate care; and



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WHEREAS, a mental health crisis center would enable the City, State and private entities to coordinate care for the mentally ill who may otherwise enter the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, a mental health crisis center would offer mental health inpatient services and be staffed with qualified professionals who understand the issues faced by clients and who are knowledgeable of the programs and services available for people with mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, to create a mental health crisis center the City or State would need to identify an appropriate location (that would need to include individual rooms for patients), budget for and hire a staff of psychological and medical professionals and social workers, and ensure security, among other actions necessary to provide the services needed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City Administration to support the establishment of a mental health crisis center to coordinate services and care for people with mental illnesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council also urges the City Administration to work with the State and private entities to ensure the crisis center can offer a continuum of care necessary to reduce recidivism among the mentally ill; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Honolulu Police Department Chief of Police, and the Director of Community Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Am Kobayashi*

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

FEB - 3 2016

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Honolulu, Hawaii

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Councilmembers